

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: December 1, 2017

To: Affected Agencies, Organizations and Interested Persons

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the De Soto Tanks Project

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies and interested parties that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), as the Lead Agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed De Soto Tanks Project.

LADWP is requesting input from interested individuals, organizations, and agency representatives regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR for the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA, LADWP requests that agencies review the project description provided in this NOP and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. A description of the project, location, and preliminary determination of the environmental resource topics to be addressed in the EIR are contained in the Initial Study for the De Soto Tanks Project.

Project Location:

The proposed project is located in the City of Los Angeles within the County of Los Angeles, at 11200 De Soto Avenue, in the Chatsworth community. The project site is generally bounded by the 118 Freeway to the north, De Soto Avenue to the west, and Rinaldi Street to the south and east. Adjacent to the property on the east side, is an undeveloped, privately-owned parcel of land that would be acquired to facilitate construction of the proposed project. The project is located in Council District No. 12 and in the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council area.

Project Description:

The De Soto Tanks Project is a water storage project to provide additional local storage and increase operational effectiveness, reliability, and flexibility; system redundancy; and emergency supply to the West San Fernando Valley.

The project would functionally replace the existing 3-million gallon (MG) De Soto

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Reservoir, with two buried, pre-stressed circular concrete storage tanks immediately north of the existing reservoir site. The combined storage capacity upon completion of the new storage tanks would be approximately 20 MG.

The existing De Soto Reservoir, located in the northwestern area of the San Fernando Valley, was built in 1941. It has a base elevation of 1,100 feet above mean sea level and a high water level of 1,123 feet. In order to maintain appropriate operating pressure, the two proposed buried pre-stressed concrete tanks would have a base elevation of 1,100 feet, a high water level of 1,130 feet, and a top of tank elevation of 1,140 feet. Excavation at the proposed project site would be required to bury the tanks, which would be approximately 240 feet in diameter and 40 feet in height, below existing grade level in order to achieve these target elevations.

The construction of these tanks will require a temporary excavation to a depth of approximately 50 feet. This excavation will likely include 2:1 (horizontal:vertical) slope cuts and vertical walls of up to 40 feet with tie-backs as part of the shoring system. Additional geotechnical investigation is being conducted to determine the final location of the tanks.

Construction of the De Soto Tanks Project would also require the installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of new inlet pipelines that would connect to the LADWP Rinaldi Trunk Line and outlet pipelines that would connect to the LADWP De Soto Trunk Line and Granada Trunk Line. In addition, a new pressure regulator station is needed to reduce the water pressure coming via Rinaldi Trunk Line from Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant UV Plant, 1,190-foot high water, to the De Soto Tanks which will have a 1,130-foot high water.

Upon completion of the De Soto Tanks, the existing De Soto Reservoir will be demolished and a new De Soto Pump Station will also be constructed to pump water to the 1305-ft pressure zone. Currently, the 1305-ft pressure zone is supplied by the Van Norman Pump Station No. 2, which pumps water to the 1445-ft pressure zone and is regulated at the Granada TL at De Soto Reservoir Regulator Station to the 1305-ft pressure zone. The new De Soto Pump Station will reduce dependence on Van Norman Pump Station No. 2 and improve water quality by allowing for better cycling of the Kittridge Tanks in the 1305-ft pressure zone.

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Based on the Initial Study, the Project could have potentially significant environmental impacts in the following topic areas, which will be addressed in the EIR: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems.

Scoping Meeting:

LADWP will hold a scoping meeting to share information regarding the proposed project and environmental review process and to receive written comments about the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be addressed in the EIR. The LADWP

encourages all interested individuals and organizations to attend this meeting. No decisions about the project will be made at the scoping meeting. The date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting are as follows:

Wednesday, January 17, 2018
6:00PM
Chatsworth Branch Library – Meeting Room
21052 Devonshire Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Public Review and Comments:

The public comment period for the NOP and review of the Initial Study will start on December 1, 2017, and end on January 31, 2018.

Please ensure that comments are postmarked or emailed on or before January 31, 2018.

The Initial Study is available for review at the locations listed below or may be accessed electronically and/or downloaded at the following website:
<http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices>.

Chatsworth Branch Public Library
21052 Devonshire Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Affairs
111 N. Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please mail or email your comments, and direct any questions to:

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Signature: 
Charles C. Holloway, Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment, LADWP

BG:rc